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STUDY, DISPLAY, AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FAUNA,
FLORA, AND PREHISTORIC LIFE OF THE PACIFIC COAST

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SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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CAVE OF THE KILLER WHALES

One of the most interesting petroglyphs ever discovered in the Santa Barbara region was found recently in a sea cave on San Nicolas Island by Mr. Al Allanson of La Jolla.

Here the sea has eroded into the sandstone base of the island cutting a cave, which in turn has collapsed on the seaward side so that it must be entered through a crevice. Inside, the figures of at least nine killer whales have been carved into the sandstone by the prehistoric Indians. Three are in a conventional or horizontal position and the others are vertical, with heads up.

Mr. Allanson's discovery is of special interest, for while petroglyphs are common on the mainland, they are exceedingly rare on the islands.

Furthermore this is the only example known on either islands or mainland where the killer whale is used as a petroglyph design.

The stone pipes and effigies found in the form of killer whales occasionally on San Nicolas are believed to have had some ceremonial significance and these petroglyphs may have some relationship to them.

Gradually our knowledge of the ancient peoples increases by just such discoveries as this which Mr. Allanson photographed and reported to the writer. P.C.O.

FOURTH SANTA ROSA ISLAND EXPEDITION

Since we have been following the progress of Museum expeditions on Santa Rosa Island (*Museum Leaflet*, November 1947 and *Museum Talk*, Winter 1949-50), Mr. Orr's recent mimeographed report on the Fourth Santa Rosa Island Expedition, 1950-51, sent to a limited number of active friends of the expedition, is included here. This last expedition was devoted entirely to archeology and the six large photos accompanying the report show a village site and cemetery at Skull Gulch, field methods and equipment, the effects of wind during excavation of "Dune Dwellers," and two pictures of Jolla Vieja taken fifty years apart showing change by erosion.

Introduction

The Fourth Santa Rosa Island Expedition of the Departments of Anthropology and Geology of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History was made possible by the generous contributions of Miss Katherine Harvey, Mr. Harold S. Chase, Mr. Charles A. Ott, and Mr. David Gray and enabled the Museum to increase the expedition staff by the addition of one man for the field season.